

closed such that the second door traps the first door, the locking mechanism keeps the first and second doors in the closed position.

Please cancel claim 50.

Please add the following new claims:

53. ~~The safe of claim 1; wherein said aperture and port hole are on the sides of the safe.~~

54. ~~The safe of claim 20, wherein said aperture and port hole are on the sides of the safe.~~

55. ~~The safe of claim 39, wherein said aperture and port hole are on the sides of the safe.~~

Remarks

The Abstract of the invention was objected to, and has been amended hereinabove as recommended by the Patent Office to overcome the objections. A clean and a marked-up copy of the amended Abstract section are provided.

To further clarify the description of the invention, the description has been amended hereinabove such that on page 4, line 14, "door lip 43" is used in place of "lip 43", and on page 3, line 25, "door stop lip 32" is used in place of "lip 32", as recommended by the Patent Office. The drawings were objected to because they do not include the reference sign(s) 28, 12 and 52, mentioned in the description. Specifically, page 3, lines 4 and 5, recites "door mechanism 28", page 3, line 11, recites "doors 12" and page 5, line 14 recites "compartments 52". The description has been amended hereinabove to remove/correct the mentioned sign(s), and overcome the objection. As a result, the drawings do not need correction. Clean and marked-up

copies of the amended paragraphs are provided.

Claims 1-52 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. Claim 46 was objected to, and has been amended as suggested by the Patent Office to overcome the objection. Claims 6, 9, 10, 13, 23, 25, 28, 29, 32, 39, 40, 41 and 47 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The claims have been amended to overcome the rejections. Claims 16, 35 and 50 have been canceled, and claims 52, 53 and 54 have been added instead.

Claims 1-3, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wakeman (USPN 928,483). Claims 20-22 and 36-38 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Israel, GB 2066869A. Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Wakeman in view of Sanderson et al (USPN 4704970). Claims 6-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Wakeman in view of Wege (USPN 1054325). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Wakeman in view of Wege and Sanderson. Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Wakeman in view of Wege and List (USPN 3866961). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Wakeman and Gross (USPN 342003). Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Wakeman in view of Israel. Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Israel in view of Sanderson. Claims 25-27, 29, 39-43 and 51-52, were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Israel in view of Wege. Claims 28 and 44 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Israel in view of Wege and Sanderson. Claims 30-32 and 45-46 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Israel in view of Wege and List. Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Israel in view of Gross (USPN 342003). Claim 35 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Israel in view of Wakeman. Claims 48 and 49 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Israel in view of Wege and Gross. Claim 50 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Israel in view of Wege and Wakeman.

The claims have been amended to further distinguish the present invention from

the cited references. In one version, the claimed invention provides a security safe for storing one or more electrical devices, comprising: a housing defining a security enclosure, the housing including an opening into an interior of said enclosure for placing items into, and removing items from, said enclosure; a door mechanism mounted to the housing for movement between opened and closed positions in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the door mechanism precludes access to said interior through said opening; wherein the safe further includes an aperture for inserting items into said enclosure without moving said door mechanism into the opened position; a port hole providing access into said enclosure for passing at least a power cord therethrough for powering at least one electrical device in the safe when the door mechanism is in the closed position; and a shelf divider mounted within the enclosure proximate the aperture so that items can be dropped onto the shelf divider through the aperture.

The claimed invention includes limitations not taught or suggested by the cited references alone or in combination. For example, Wakeman does not include a port hole for a power cord for powering an electronic devices stored therein with the safe doors closed. Wakeman is safe strictly for storing bills and coins. Wakeman's slot 17 is for bills, and opening 18 is a coin slot, not a port hole for a power cord, and once it receives a coin a device therein prevents access. Wakeman does not provide a shelf divider mounted within the enclosure proximate the aperture so that items can be dropped onto the shelf divider through the aperture. This prevents damage to fragile objects such as CD's, computer disks, etc. that may be dropped into the safe via the aperture.

Israel is directed to a safe with interchangeable doors. Israel does not include a port hole for a power cord for powering an electronic devices stored therein with the safe doors closed. Israel does not provide a shelf divider mounted within the enclosure proximate the aperture so that items can be dropped onto the shelf divider through the aperture. Objects dropped through slot 21 of Israel fall to the bottom of the safe and

can be damaged. Gross provides a safe with jambs that make the safe tight, and fire proof. There is no shelving in Gross as in the claimed invention for receiving objects.

Further, there is no motivation to combine the multitude of the references the Patent Office has utilized, to arrive at the present invention. The claimed invention provides a safe primarily designed for storing electronic devices, such as portable computers and cell phones, with the ability to pass a power cord therethrough to power such devices with the safe doors closed. There's also a slot for dropping objects into the safe. The references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Further, none of the cited references provides a motivation to be combined with other references to solve the problems that are alleviated by the present invention. Indeed, the problems solved by the present invention did not even exist at the time period the cited references were filed.


For the foregoing reasons, and other reasons, the claims, as amended should be allowed. Re-examination, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Petition for Request for Extension of time under 35 CFR 1.136(a)

Applicant hereby requests a two month extension of time, from 6/14/2002 till 8/14/2002, for response in the above-referenced patent application. Enclosed is a check for \$200 to cover the 2-month extension fee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 8-13-02


Michael Zarrabian
Reg. No. 39,886

08/23/2002 SMINASS1 00000032 09727640

01 FC:216

200.00 OP

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence or paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 13, 2002.

By _____


Signature

Michael Zarrabian
Typed Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee

Clean copy of the amended claims

Sub B1
A8

1. A security safe for storing one or more electrical devices, comprising:
a housing defining a security enclosure, the housing including an opening into an interior of said enclosure for placing items into, and removing items from, said enclosure,
a door mechanism mounted to the housing for movement between opened and closed positions in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the door mechanism precludes access to said interior through said opening,
wherein the housing further includes:
an aperture for inserting items into said enclosure without moving said door mechanism into the opened position,
a port hole providing access into said enclosure for passing at least a power cord therethrough for powering at least one electrical device in the safe when the door mechanism is in the closed position, and
a shelf divider mounted within the enclosure proximate the aperture so that items can be dropped onto the shelf divider through the aperture.

2. The safe of claim 1, wherein the aperture defines a slot through which items can be inserted into said enclosure, such that the slot is dimensioned to receive items including computer disks, compact discs, credit cards.

3. The safe of claim 2, wherein the aperture defines a narrow slot to prevent reaching inside the safe by hand, and the safe is dimensioned about 10" high x 17 " wide x 12.5" deep.

A9 Sub B2

6. The safe of claim 1, wherein the door mechanism comprises a first door and a second door, each door attached to the housing by one or more hinges whereby each door can swing between an opened position and a closed position in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the first and second doors cooperatively preclude access to said interior through said opening.

A10
9. The safe of claim 6, wherein the hinges are concealed from view by the housing and the first and second doors when the door mechanism is in the closed position.

10. The safe of claim 6 further comprising a locking mechanism for locking the first and second doors in the closed position.

A11
13. The safe of claim 7 further comprising a locking mechanism including a member attached to the housing and projecting through a breach defined in said second door when the second door is in the closed position, the member including a hole for passing a lock therethrough such that when the first and second doors are closed such that the second door traps the first door, the locking mechanism keeps the first and second doors in the closed position.

A12 Sub B4
20. A security safe for storing one or more electrical devices, comprising:
a housing defining a security enclosure, the housing including an opening into an interior of said enclosure for placing items into, and removing items from, said enclosure,

a door mechanism mounted to the housing for movement between opened and closed positions in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the door mechanism precludes access to said interior through said opening,

a port hole providing access into said enclosure for passing at least a power cord therethrough for powering at least one electrical device in the safe when the door mechanism is in the closed position,

a shelf divider mounted within the enclosure proximate the aperture so that items can be dropped onto the shelf divider through the aperture, and

wherein the door mechanism further includes at least an aperture for inserting items into said enclosure without moving said door mechanism into the ~~opened position.~~

A13
21. The safe of claim 20, wherein the aperture defines a slot through which items can be inserted into said enclosure, such that the slot is dimensioned to receive items including computer disks, compact discs, credit cards.

22. The safe of claim 21, wherein the aperture defines a narrow slot to prevent reaching inside the safe by hand, dimensioned about 5" x 1/4".

Sub B5
23. The safe of claim 20, wherein the door mechanism comprises a door attached to the housing by one or more hinges such that the door is movable between said opened and closed positions, wherein the aperture is defined in the door.

A14 Sub B5
25. The safe of claim 20, wherein the door mechanism comprises a first door and a second door, the aperture being defined in one of the first and second doors, each door attached to the housing by one or more hinges whereby each door can swing between an opened position and a closed position in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the first and second doors cooperatively preclude access to said interior through said opening.

A15
28. The safe of claim 25, wherein the hinges are concealed from view by the housing and the first and second doors when the door mechanism is in the closed position.

29. The safe of claim 25 further comprising a locking mechanism for locking the first and second doors in the closed position.

A16
32. The safe of claim 26 further comprising a locking mechanism including a member attached to the housing and projecting through a breach defined in said second door when the second door is in the closed position, the member including a hole for passing a lock therethrough such that when the first and second doors are

A16 ~~closed such that the second door traps the first door, the locking mechanism keeps the first and second doors in the closed position.~~

A17 ~~39. A security safe for storing one or more electrical devices, comprising:
a housing defining a security enclosure, the housing including an opening into an interior of said enclosure for placing items into, and removing items from, said enclosure,~~

~~a door mechanism mounted to the housing for movement between opened and closed positions in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the door mechanism precludes access to said interior through said opening,~~

~~the door mechanism comprising a first door and a second door, an aperture being defined in one of the first and second doors such that items can be inserted into said enclosure, each door attached to the housing by one or more hinges whereby each door can swing between an opened position and a closed position in relation to said opening, wherein in the closed position the first and second doors cooperatively preclude access to said interior through said opening,~~

~~a port hole providing access into said enclosure for passing at least a power cord therethrough for powering at least one electrical device in the safe when the door mechanism is in the closed position,~~

~~a shelf divider mounted within the enclosure proximate the aperture so that items can be dropped onto the shelf divider through the aperture,~~

~~locking mechanism for locking the first and second doors in the closed position, and~~

~~anchoring mechanism for securely fastening the safe to a structure.~~

40. ~~The safe of claim 39, wherein the aperture defines a slot through which items can be inserted into said enclosure, such that the slot is dimensioned to receive items including computer disks, compact discs, credit cards.~~

41. ~~The safe of claim 40, wherein: the aperture defines a narrow slot~~

A17 ~~dimensioned about 5" x 1/4" to prevent reaching inside the safe by hand, and the safe is dimensioned about 10" high x 17" wide x 12.5" deep.~~

A18 46. The safe of claim 42, wherein said at least one door includes a recessed portion having the breach thereon, such that said member projects through the breach into the recessed area when said at least one door is in the closed position.

47. The safe of claim 39 wherein the locking mechanism includes a member attached to the housing and projecting through a breach defined in said second door when the second door is in the closed position, the member including a hole for passing a lock therethrough such that when the first and second doors are closed such that the second door traps the first door, the locking mechanism keeps the first and second doors in the closed position.

Marked-Up copy of the amended Abstract section

A security safe [having] is provided that has a housing defining a security enclosure, and the housing [including] has an opening into an interior of [said] the enclosure for placing items into, and removing items from, [said] the enclosure. A door mechanism is mounted to the housing for movement between opened and closed positions in relation to the [said] opening, wherein in the closed position the door mechanism precludes access to [said] the interior through [said] the opening. In one version, the housing also has [further includes] an aperture for inserting items into the [said] enclosure without moving [said] the door mechanism into the opened position. In another version the aperture is defined in a door of the safe.

Marked-Up copy of the paragraphs in the Description section

Description section, paragraph beginning on page 2 line 29 and ending on page 3, line 12:

FIGS. 1-2 show perspectives view of an example embodiment of a safe 10 according to the present invention for securely storing valuables therein. The safe 10 comprises a housing 12 defining an enclosure 14, with an access-opening 16 providing access to the interior of the housing 12 for storing objects such as valuables. The housing 12 includes side walls 18, top wall 20, bottom wall 22 and rear wall 24, and said access-opening 16 and a door mechanism [28] including one or more doors form a front wall 26 of the safe 10. Preferably, the door mechanism [28] includes two doors 28L and 28R as shown, wherein the doors 28L, 28R are attached to the housing 12 around the opening 16 using hinges 30 as shown in FIGS. 2 and 4. The hinges 30 are selected, and the doors 28L, 28R are attached to the housing 12 via the hinges 30, such that when the doors 28L, 28R are closed, the hinges 30 are not visible (FIG. 1). This provides a flush external surface for the safe 10 where the doors 28L, 28R are attached to the housing 12, and prevents removal of the doors 28L, 28R, [12] by manipulating the hinges 30 when the doors 28L, 28R are closed.

Description section, the last paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22, and ending on page 4, line 3:

The safe 10 includes a locking mechanism for locking the doors 28R, 28L closed. In one example, the right hand (second) door 28R traps the left hand (first) door 28L when closed, if the left hand door 28L is closed first. For example, the left hand door 28L can include a door stop

lip 32 extending from an edge of the door 28L, whereby the right hand door 28R traps the left door 28L as shown in FIG. 4. In this embodiment, the right hand door 28R is controlled in its opening and closing using a padlock 34 inserted through a member such as steel loop 36 that is welded to the inside of the housing 12 and projects through a breach 38 in the right hand door 28R, wherein the padlock can be placed through the hoop 36, preventing the doors 28L, 28R from being opened without removing the padlock. In this example, the hoop 36 is attached to a divider 44 secured inside the housing 12. Other locking mechanisms for the safe 10 are possible (e.g., combination lock) and contemplated by the present invention.

Description section, paragraph beginning on page 4 line 5 and ending on page 4, line 15:

The right hand door 28R includes a recessed area 40 on the face of the right hand door 28R, wherein the breach 38 is defined in the recess 40 to provide an area for the padlock and a flush face to the safe. The hoop 36 projects through the breach 38 into the recessed area 40 (FIG. 4). As shown in FIG. 3, the doors 28L, 28R can be disassembled from the housing 12, when the doors 28L, 28R are open, by means of hand tools. This allows repairing or changing the doors 28L, 28R. Each door 28L, 28R is about e.g. 8" high x 7.5" wide. The recessed area 40 on the right hand door 28R can be rectangular, about e.g. 4" high x 3" wide x 0.5" deep. The breach 38 in the recessed area 40 can be about e.g. 1" from top of the recess 40 and about 1" wide. The housing 12 further includes door lips 43 protruding from the opening 15, and recessed into the housing by e.g. 0.5 inches", as door stops when the doors 28L, 28R are closed.

Description section, paragraph beginning on page 4 line 17 and ending on page 4, line 30:

In another aspect of the present invention, the safe 10 further includes at least one aperture 42 for inserting items into the safe 10 without using said access-opening 16. As such, the aperture 42 can be used to insert items into the safe 10 without moving the doors [28] 28L, 28R into the opened position. In one example shown in FIG. 5, the aperture 42 comprises a narrow horizontal slot defined in the right hand door 28R, wherein the slot is about e.g. 1/4" high and 5" wide near the upper portion of the face of a door 28L or 28R. Other shapes, sizes and locations for the aperture 42 are possible and contemplated by the present invention. In another example shown in FIG. 3, the aperture 42 is defined in the housing 12, such as e.g. a side wall 18 of the housing 12. Preferably, the slot 42 is shaped and sized to allow inserting items into the safe 10, while preventing access to the interior 14 of the safe 10 for removing items therefrom when the safe doors 28L, 28R are closed. For example, the slot 42 can be used to insert items such as money, credit cards, mail, etc. into the safe 10 without opening the safe doors [28] 28L, 28R.

Description section, paragraph beginning on page 5 line 13 and ending on page 5, line 22:

As shown by example in FIG. 3, dividers/shelves 44, 50 are used to divide the interior space 14 in the safe into different storage area or compartments 52L, 52R, 52B [52 (e.g., 52L, 52R, 52B)]. In the example of FIG. 3, dividers 44, 50 secured to the housing 12 (e.g., screwed) are used to define three storage areas 52L, 52R, 52B, wherein a horizontal shelf 44 divides the interior 14 in half into lower/bottom storage area 52B,

and an upper area further divided by a vertical divider 50 into two unequal areas, a left area 52L and a right area 52R (e.g., area for the receipt of items inserted through said horizontal slot 42). The left hand upper interior portion 52L of the safe 10 can hold cameras, CD players, cell phones, and similar size personal items. The lower portion 52B of the safe 10 is designed to accommodate at least one portable or notebook personal computers.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL ZARRABIAN
1925 CENTURY PARK EAST
SUITE 500
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067



Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED